



Implementation of House Bill 84

Office of Montana Secretary of State
Linda McCulloch
Elections and Government Services
August 2015

A comprehensive
clean-up of
special district
and local
government
election laws

House Bill 84



House bill
84 was the
result of a
SAVA
interim
study on
election
laws

Purpose

“the purpose of HB 84 is to consolidate, simplify, and standardize, to the extent feasible, dates and deadlines for special purpose district elections and for local government elections to provide consistency for election administrators and voters.”

House Bill 84



Date
Elections
will be held

Special Purpose
District
elections will
be held on
school election
day

May 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Notes:			

Special District Election Exceptions

House Bill 84



The following do not have to be held on school election day:

A question affecting district funding, such as fee assessments, bonds, or the sale or lease of property

A conservation district election must be held on a primary or general election day.

Special
District
Election
Exceptions

House Bill 84



If specifically
authorized by law, a
special purpose
district election may
be held at the
district's annual
meeting.

House Bill 84



“an area with special boundaries created as authorized by law for a specialized and limited purpose”

➤ Most units of government other than city, county or consolidated city-county.

➤ Examples:



What is a
special purpose
district?

Date
Elections
will be
Held

House Bill 84



Local Government elections will be held on primary or general election day EXCEPT

➤ An election concerning funding may be called as a special election

June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
						7

Notice of Elections

House Bill 84



- Notice of special district elections and bond elections must be given at least three times no earlier than 40 days and no later than 10 days before the election
- Notice of school election/community college election must be given at least three times no earlier than 40 days and no later than 10 days before the election (change for school elections from 30-20 days)
 - School trustees must give notice of cancellation of an election no later than 30 days before the election (change from 25 days)

Calling an
Election

House Bill 84



85 days before
the scheduled
election for local,
special district,
community
college elections

70 days before a
school election
(was 40 days)

Petitions
for
Nomination

House Bill 84



Requirement for
certain
candidates* to
collect signatures
and file a petition
for nomination is
removed

*Petitions are
eliminated for
special district
candidates,
community
college and school
candidates

Candidate
Filing
Deadlines

House Bill 84



145 days to 85
days for federal,
local, special
district,
community
college elections

Change for
most special
districts
from 135-75
days

145 days to 40
days for school
elections
(change from 35
day close of filing)

**Write-in
Filing/
withdrawal
Deadlines**

House Bill 84



Write-in Deadlines:
30 days for special
district elections;
31 days for school
elections; 35 days
for other elections

**Withdrawal
Deadlines: 85 days
before election day
(31 days for
schools)**

Ballot
Certification
Deadlines

House Bill 84



75 days before
election day

Schools: 30
days before
election day

Change
from 25
days

CPP
Deadlines

House Bill 84



77 days before
primary, 83 days
before general to
both SOS and County
EA

Note: a separate bill
(SB151) removed the
requirement for
candidates to file
campaign reports and
forms, including the C-
1-A and C-3 forms
with county election
offices

Voter
Registration

House Bill 84



Late Registration applies to all elections,
including school elections

- ✓ Regular registration closes 30 days before election day
- ✓ Late registration begins the next day and ends at close of polls on election day
- ✓ Late registration closes temporarily at noon the day before election day

Absentee Ballots

House Bill 84



Ballots are sent 25 days before election day for school, local and state/federal elections; 20 days for special district and school bond elections

Ballots must still be available for in-person and late registration voting 30 days/29 days before election day

Absentee
Ballots

House Bill 84



Ballots for Military and
Overseas voters
covered under UOCAVA
must still be sent 45
days before election
day for state/federal
elections

Mail Ballots

House Bill 84



Ballots are sent
20-15 days before
election day for all
mail ballot
elections
(change from 25-
15 days)

Ballots must still be
available for in-
person and late
registration voting
30 days/29 days
before election day

Other
Changes

House Bill 84



- ✓ Community College Elections will be run by county election administrators
 - ✓ Petitions for community college regents will be filed with county election administrators
- ✓ A county superintendent of schools term will begin Jan. 1 following election (instead of the first Monday in January)



House Bill 84



Other legislation to be aware of:

- House Bill 529 – Prohibit Candidate from Serving as a Poll Watcher at Certain Polling Places
 - Effective October 1, 2015
- House Bill 580 – Prohibiting Certain Persons from Distributing things of value at Polling Places
 - Effective October 1, 2015
 - Things of value: alcohol, tobacco, food, drink or anything of value (within 100 feet)



Questions?
Contact the
Secretary of State
at
soselections@mt.gov

The preceding is a
summary of the
substantive changes to
election law in HB 84.
Review the entire bill at
<http://leg.mt.gov/bills/2015/billpdf/HB0084.pdf>